

## NEW YORK CUBANS

Get your pad and pencil out, Syl, and lend a willing ear, here's a tip. It's a cinch. The New York Cubans will be the team to beat in the 1946 Negro National League flag chase. Yes, I know the Grays, Philadelphia and Newark are still around. So are Baltimore and the Black Yankees. Without a doubt Alex Pompey has as fine a collection of stars from Cuba, Panama, Mexico and the States as any Alladin's Lamp could procure.

Balancing and steadying the team will be several veterans who helped the team's sensational winning record last year and others who have made their reputation with other teams. Among these are Catcher Lou Loudon whose batting average of .290 is impressive enough, but not as pleasing as his receiving skill and peppery dashes down the baselines. First baseman Dave "Showboat" Thomas slugged the pellet at a .304 clip last season and is as polished at his position as the best the game has produced. Gil Garrido, sensational second baseman, will return to the Cuban fold this season after departing mid-season 1944. Garrido is a combination of Joe Gordon and Glatz Marion and his .340 batting average does not portray his long drives and his clutch hitting. Shortstop Horacio Martinez, .270 is all that can be desired in an infielder. At his post he has proved to be a finished player, performing with such colorful ease that he approaches a perfect diamond artist. Filling the shoes of the peerless Hector Rodriguez will be Napoleon Heredia, who hit .368 in Cuba last year. Heredia is fast, has great competitive spirit and is a marvelous fielder. In outfielders Rogelio Linares, Chiflan Clark, and Tom Parker the Cubans have the finest outfield in the business. The three are experienced ball hawks. All possess exceptional throwing arms tremendous speed and each is a constant "Home Run" Threat. Linares has been with the Latins for five seasons and is a very aggressive player. In one game he threw out three Birmingham Black Barons players at the plate. This



feat attests to his throwing ability. Linates is a dangerous hitter and pounded the ball at a .300 clip last season. Clark is a newcomer to the States. He is a former member of the Cuban Champion Almendares team. He is very fast and his throwing arm will prove to be the best and most accurate in the league. His hitting is terrific as his .315 average with the Almendares will prove. The name of Clark will be prominent in news iteams this season. Big Train Parker was formerly with the Homestead Grays, New York Black Yankees, and St. Louis Stars. He served ten months in the U. S. Army and was discharged some three months ago. Practically every team in the two leagues bidded for his services, but his choice was the Cubans. This move definitely made the Cubans a threat for the championship. Parker weighs 230 pounds is very fast for his weight, has a rifle arm and is a murderous clouter. He will break up many games thisyear. These hard hitting outfielders will provide the necessary punch to give the Cubans the extra runs they have been needing to win the Championship.

Another power-hitter in the Latin camp is Rookie catcher Sam Noble who is making his debut in the States. A streamlined 215 pounder Noble gets plenty of distance out of the ball and his catching is all to be desired. Other than the presence of the great Louden, Noble would move into the first string receiving duties without trouble.

The New Yorkers have never been lacking in the pitching and this year will prove no exception. A great wave of enthusiasm is sweeping the Latin camp with the return to his great form of David Barnhill, ace righthander who was ill most of the 1944 season. Barnhill has been carefully prepped in spring training and opposing batsmen will find him to be the wizard of old <sup>who</sup> ~~than~~ tied hitters in knots. Barring injury this year should mark Barnhills best year. Carranza Howard (6-6) is another pitcher who seems to be ready for a hard season. He is very strong and will stand plenty of work. His knowledge of pitching has increased and although possessing blinding speed, he has been stressing the art of pitching rather than blazing, the ball by hitters. Southpaw Luis Tiant has never looked better during this



long career. Winning three while losing one last season against the toughest opposition has only set the stage for a great year in 1945. Tiant is a master of the pitching art and it will be a real news this year when he is defeated. Barney Morris who burned the league up last season is again in camp and though slowing rounding to form has showed enough to place him among the leading pitchers of the league. With the advent of hot weather Morris will again wave his magic past all opposition. Pat Scantlebury reported to the team from Panama ready to pitch and expects to repeat last years performance. He is one of the best exponents of the fast ball and along with Victor Greenidge great Panamanian curve ball artist will bolster the staff no end. Bill Anderson and Martin Crue round out a fine hurling staff.